

Coupons Inside:

<i>L'Enfant Hair Salon</i> 10% off products and services	3
<i>LeRivage Restaurant</i> two for one entree	6
<i>Jenny's Chinese Restaurant</i> —half off second entree	8

The Southwester

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October 2000

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FREE!

Hear Stories About Old SW Mon. Sep. 25

The history panels in Waterside Mall have everyone talking about "The Old Southwest."

More stories will be told and a video "Southwest Remembered" will be featured at the monthly meeting of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, Mon. Sep. 25 at 7:30 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I (Eye) St. S.W.

Bring your old family photos and stories to share with others. The SWNA History Task Force is collecting information on the churches that have been torn down, Hadley Hospital, the streetcars, 4 Street shops, alley houses, Hall's, Bruce Wahl's, Harrigan's, Old Flagship and Hogates, schools and playgrounds and all the tales of Old Southwest to make more history panels. They can make Xerox copies and give you back anything you would like to show to your neighbors. ■

M.I.T. Helps Design Future Southwest, D.C.

By Carole Early

Graduate Students in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T.) are working on plans for SW Washington.

This is the 10th year MIT students have been sent to urban areas for a planning project. It allows the students to work in a real situation, get hands-on experience and develop useful planning proposals for the cities.

Last year a part of the city of Singapore was studied and a plan was drawn up. This year they have chosen Southwest D.C.. One of the reasons was that Andrew Altman who is Director of the D.C. Office of Planning is an alumnus of M.I.T. and the other reason is that the MIT School of Urban Studies always looks for interesting problems and SW was ripe with challenges.

After talking with some community members, studying the current buildings and doing a lot of brainstorming, the students gave a presentation at a small gathering here in SW. They addressed the issues of housing stock, Waterside Mall, Buzzards Point, the street pattern and the Waterfront.

They were here for one week & will return to MIT where they will spend three more months developing their plan, after which they will submit it to the Office of Planning to help guide the overall waterfront revitalization process.

You may wonder "what makes this study different from all the rest?"

First of all Andrew Altman, Director of the

Banneker Festival Sat., Sept. 23 1-9pm

Music, food and fun will fill Tenth St. S.W. starting at Independence Ave. S.W. and reaching along the promenade in front of Loew's Hotel Saturday, September 23 from 1 pm to 9 pm. The celebration is part of the 200th anniversary of Washington as the nation's capital and calls attention to the Benjamin Banneker memorial planned for that site, which will be completed in 2003.

Food booths, cotton candy, ice cream and free balloons for children will be available. Stilt walkers, caricaturists and mimes will mingle within the crowd.

Go-Go sensation Chuck Brown will highlight the evening program. Opening ceremonies will feature the Ft. McNair Fife and Drum Corps. ■

Office of Planning, indicated that the MIT suggestions will not fall on deaf ears—there will be a consultant team in place for the next eight months which will be working with the DC and Federal governments to implement the plan.

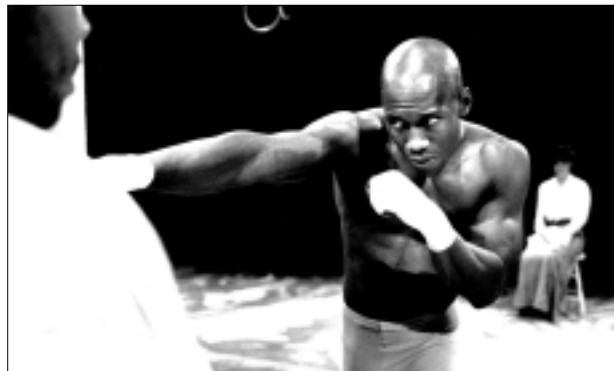
(I will maintain "a wait and see" approach - Carole).

Uwe Brandes, Economic Revitalization Planner in the Office of Planning, is the contact for questions and issues related to the waterfront revitalization initiative and the MIT study.

Kasia Grzelkowski is the new Neighborhood Planning Coordinator for Ward Two from the Office of Planning. She will be working with the SW Community to develop a neighborhood plan with an emphasis on implementation. Both can be reached by calling (202) 442-7600. ■



Shown huddling here are five of the more than a dozen MIT graduate students who studied the Southwest neighborhood and waterfront and will draft alternative suggestions for the future layout and development of the area.



Mahershala Karim Ali stars as boxer Jack Jefferson in *The Great White Hope*. At left is Wayne W. Pretlow as Tick, the manager. At right is Kelly C. McAndrews as Eleanor Bachman, Jack's fiancée. (photo by Scott Suchman)

"Great White Hope" At Arena

The revival of the 1967 Arena Stage sensation "Great White Hope" has opened the 50th anniversary year of the regional theater on 6th St. S.W. with a bang.

A reviewer in 1967 said "The Great White Hope" is spectacular: it features a cakewalk, a prayer meeting, a voodoo ceremony, a funeral, and crowd scenes of all sorts. It demands a large stage and a huge cast; very

few theaters in this country could begin to muster the resources for it."

Thirty three years later the same remark could be made. Many of the 28 cast members have to play several of the 240 characters written into the drama. Costume changes occur on a split second basis to fit the 19 scene changes.

Performances continue through October 15. Phone 488-3300 for the box office. ■

Mayor Solicits 4,000 Mock Phone Calls

In the past twelve months city employees have had to pick up the phone 4,000 times to answer mock questions posed by "testers" checking up on their phone etiquette. Mayor Anthony Williams wants volunteers to help him increase that number of calls.

In a press release reported in the August 24 Washington Post and set out in full on the city web site, Mayor Williams is asking the public to "pose as mock constituents by making anonymous visits and calls to agencies to determine how customers are treated."

A New Bldg. For Randall Rec?

By Rick Bardach

You are asked to speak up at a public meeting Wed. Sept. 27 at 7 pm at King-Greenleaf Recreation Center, 203 N St. S.W.

The D.C. Department of Recreation and Parks will tell of its plans a year from now to build a new building enclosing the Randall Swimming Pool at So. Capitol and I St. S.W. to be a year-round operation.

The D.C. Government's "Capital Budget" has \$4.4 million allocated for this work.

Now is the time for community education and input. Please attend this meeting and help the community reach a decision. ■

Using the web an anonymous tester can submit a "Tester Score Sheet" by clicking on "Submit". The tester's report with the employee's name, and the anonymous comments on the employee's courtesy, knowledge and ability, etiquette and overall impression become a government record.

For information on the "tester" program call the D.C. government operator at 727-1000 or go to the city's web site, www.washingtondc.gov. ■

Fish Wharf Rents Will Increase

Newly negotiated 30 year leases for tenants of the municipal fish wharf and marina on Maine Ave. S.W. have greatly increased rents—in some cases more than 10 times higher.

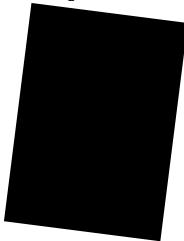
(Continued on page 6)

Inside

Community Calendar	2
Jefferson summer program	3
SWNA Mall Task Force	4
Youth swimming, chess	5
Family Day	4
Fish Wharf leases	6
Club 4 football	7
Old Southwest	7
SWNA History Task Force	7

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Southwester Staff

202/554-8560

Dale MacIver, *Ass't Ed.*
Susan Fischer, Maurice Boyd, *Advertising*
Cathy Wallace, *Business Manager*
Maurice Cook, *Writer*
Karen Finkel, *Desktop Publisher*
C.W. Hargrave, *Calendar*
Carole Early, Herbert Holmes, Rodney Horns, *Production Assistant*

Drop off your stories by **Wed. October 4** in the box behind the counter at the SW Library, 3rd and I or the desk at 700 7 St SW Box 130.

E-mail text to: thesouthwester@yahoo.com
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1/16 page	\$35	1/8 page	\$70
1/4 page	\$140	1/2 page	\$275
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Work at home. 10 hours a week. Telephone; must have computer and fax. \$8.00 hr. Fax resume 202-554-4654.

Southwest Community Calendar

October-November

Oct. 2	Monday	SWNA Board Meeting , 7pm SWNA Office, Waterside Mall 401 M St., SW
Oct. 3	Tuesday	1st District MPD Citizen's Advisory Council 7pm, DCPD, 415 Fourth St., SW Community Room
Oct. 7	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club , 10am SW Branch Library, 920 Wesley Place, SW
Oct. 11	Wednesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club 6:45 pm SW Branch Library
Oct. 16	Monday	Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D 7pm Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4th and I St., SW
Oct. 18	Wednesday	AARP SW Waterfront Chapter #4751, noon St. Matthews Church, 222 M St., SW
Oct. 19	Thursday	Police PSA/Partnership , 7pm River Park Mutual Homes, 1301 Delaware Ave., SW
Oct. 21	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club (See Oct. 7 for place & time)
Oct. 25	Wednesday	Fil-Am Toastmasters Club (See Oct. 11 for place & time)
Oct. 26	Thursday	NARFE 12 noon SW Branch Library
Oct. 30	Monday	Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Mtg. 7 pm St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 222 M St. S.W.
Nov. 4	Saturday	Komen Toastmasters Club (See Oct. 7 for place & time)
Nov. 6	Monday	SWNA Board Meeting 7 pm SWNA Office, Waterside Mall, 401 M St. S.W.
Nov. 7	Tuesday	DON'T FORGET TO VOTE IN THE GENERAL ELECTION!!!

Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed. Oct. 4 to C.W. Hargrave 554-8284.

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Jefferson Summer Programs



Students in the SEAS program at Jefferson Jr. High visited Baltimore Harbor.



Technology class in the SEAS program.

Register At Link & Learn Oct. 2-6

At Link & Learn, 401 M St. S.W., computer classes range from \$25 for keyboarding for seniors to \$1,995 for HTML for creating web pages.

Registration for classes in October is from 11 am to 1 pm Mon., Wed., Fri. Oct. 2, 4, 6 and from 5 to 7 pm Tues., Thurs. Oct. 3 and 5. Phone 202-554-7400 or download and print a registration form from their web site www.link-learn.org. Class description and prices are on their web site. ■



The Smithsonian Institution's Folklife Festival was on the agenda for Jefferson Jr. students in the SEAS program.



Each Thursday afternoon the SEAS program visited the downtown YWCA.



John Mylonas, owner, in front of his new unisex hair salon on the promenade level of L'Enfant Plaza, across from Dress Barn.

Washington Video

(new ad in folder)

Chamber Music Concerts Set

The Southwest Chamber Music Players have announced a fall schedule for Thursday evenings Oct. 5, Nov. 9, and Dec. 21. All concerts are free, with donations requested. The audience is invited to stay for a small reception after the concert.

A Beethoven violin sonata will be featured on the Oct. 5 program, together with music by Milhaud and Stanford.

Blair Goins will bring his tuba and brass ensemble for the November 9 program. A trio for oboe, bassoon and piano by Poulenc will be played.

The Dec. 21 program will feature Bach's Christmas Oratorio, Mozart's "Exultate, Jubilate" and Christmas carols. ■

Family Day

Family Day at Lansburg Park was sponsored by Southwest Community House and Police Service Area 110. ■



NEW!
Bashoor ad
in folder

Ten Years Of Washington Video



Waterside Mall has had a video store for 20 years, the most recent 10 years being the current store—Washington Video. As shown in their ad on page 3, they have an active web site for printing your own discount coupons. ■

SWNA Task Force on Waterside Mall

by Nancy O'Brien

Some specific items were mentioned in the July 27th meeting with Sidney Bresler. They need to be followed up by the SWNA Task Force on Waterside Mall. These items are:

1. Repair of steps approaching the Mall on the I Street side
2. Possible elimination of parking spaces blocking pedestrian line of sight on north side of metro island
3. Possible redirection of pedestrian walkway and curb cuts to run directly from Metro island to Mall entrance
4. Installation and enforcement of "No Loitering" signs throughout the Mall
5. Installation of signs on restroom doors identifying "Men's Room," "Ladies Room"
6. Cutting back the hedges on M Street fronting Safeway. Their extreme height may represent a safety concern. ■

YATF Sponsors Classes in Chess And Swimming



Swimming lessons were given at Waterside Fitness and Swim Club. Medals on ribbons were awarded to those who completed the course. Professional instructors were supplied by the club.



Classes in chess were taught to S.W. youth under a grant from The World Bank to the S.W. Youth Activities Task Force of S.W.N.A. Vaughn Bennett is the instructor.



Diving instruction at Waterside Fitness and Swim Club.

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Fish Warf (*continued from page 1*)

The D.C. government is acting as landlord on behalf of the U. S. Government, which owns the property.

The 30 year leases will "provide the existing tenants with the security necessary to make long-term investments in the property," according to a letter from the D.C. Dept. of Housing and Community Development, which sent copies of the leases to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and the S.W. Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2D).

The leases will need approval of the Mayor and Council.

Nine years ago a D.C. study of the Southwest Waterfront estimated that renovating the existing bridge over Maine Ave. and adding stairs and a ramp would cost \$363,000 in private money. A bridge to Hains Point would cost \$545,000 at that time.

Leases have been negotiated with this rent (plus % of gross sales and CPI adjustments in later years):

Virgo Fish House—new rent \$9,100/yr.
Jessie Taylor Seafood - \$40,800
Capt. White's Seafood City - \$27,000
The Wharf, Inc. (Capt. White) - \$16,400
Custis & Brown Seafood - \$24,000
Pruitt's Seafood , Inc. - \$32,000
Washington Marina Co. - \$62,400 ■



All merchants *will pay higher rent.*

Waterfront Walkways In Marina Lease

"Landlord [D.C.] may create and maintain a promenade along some or all of the waterfront," including along Maine Ave. S.W. on the north side of the Washington Marina property, according to the newly negotiated city lease. The Marina company grants "to members of the public a non-exclusive easement" to use the Promenade to "walk, ride bicycles and sit."

Similar wording in the lease envisions an elevated walkway across Maine Avenue to East Potomac Park, as "a scenic path for pedestrians." It would be above the Tidal Basin end of the Marina's parking lot. In the lease it is referred to as the "Portals Connection."

Both the Urban Land Institute study "Southwest Washington, D.C." and NCPC's Legacy Plan suggested a pedestrian bridge



Warehouse and sales room of the Washington Marina Co. The boat slips and parking lot are to the far right toward the Jefferson Memorial.

from the Southwest Waterfront to East Potomac Park. ■

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Football Season Opens For Club 4

Dozens of preteen S.W. boys are suited up each week for football competition with other Police Boys and Girls Clubs around the city.

Teams and their coaches are:

Mitey Mites (65 lb) Coaches Hudgens, Boykins, Miles and Smith.

Jr. PeeWees (75 lbs) Coaches Q. Pitts, D. Robinson.

PeeWees (90 lbs) Coaches R. Hines, J. Parson, Rob

Jr. Midgets (105 lbs) Coaches T. Bailey, Mr. Harris.

Football uniforms have been provided by donations from a number of community firms and organizations, including the River Park Friends, Inc. ■



History Task Force. Some of the members of the new History Task Force of SWNA met in the Assembly office in Waterside Mall. Left to right are Caroline Rourke, Joseph Curtis, Arthuryne Taylor, Margaret Feldman, Rick Bush of Heritage Trails, Isabella Gelletich, Sheila Witonski, and Gary Young



"I Remember Old Southwest"

By Randolph E. Walters [born in 1906]

(Excerpts from tape by his daughter Judith Walters)

"The main street was called 4½ Street... It was brick and had brick walks and the street itself was either brick or cobblestone... not smooth cement..."

"At the end of 4th street was the War College... the land was built up with salvaged equipment from the Civil War... guns and all that—and then dirt on the top. I think they called it the Arsenal."

"When we [the United States Army Band] were there it was called "War College" and then they changed it to "Fort Humphreys."

"Yes, I remember General McNair. He was the head of the War College—short, red-haired man."

[Helen Hayes went to St. Dominic's Church] "Yes, her maiden name was Brown. I took up collection from her father Mr. Brown—a well-dressed man. He wore a derby."

Kate Smith sang at St. Dominic's, so I understand—for practice. I remember she sang with the Band when we played at Constitution Hall. She was always jolly and happy. She didn't read music, but sang from the heart. The piano player helped her with the musical notation. She told him what she wanted, and he would write down the notation for it..."

"The houses in Southwest were nice and roomy... Just off of Seventh Street was where I stayed for one week. It was a private house, and it stood way back from the street ["F" Street] and had a long front yard, and by the street they

had an iron fence.

"Right in front of the War College was a streetcar barn. There were two barns where the streetcars would come in and stay over night—where the traffic wasn't so heavy. One barn on one side of 4th Street and one barn on the other.

"Right beside the streetcar barn was a restaurant—a very popular restaurant—called "Fone's." ... It was a small restaurant with just about four tables and maybe a counter. It was open day and night. It stood there all by itself, and he did quite a business with the soldiers."

"Throughout the city you would find metal horse troughs, for horses to get water. They were quite ornate."

[The Band moved from Ft. McNair to Ft. Meyer in Arlington, Va. about 1940] "Every morning I would take a streetcar downtown, and then I would get on a bus to go to Virginia. And then the bus driver would sort the people, and the colored were not allowed beyond a certain place. They had to go in the back. And many, many mornings when we boarded, there would almost be a fight, making the colored people to go in the back. They would kick up a fuss. And I remember one lady said, "Well sometime this will be reversed!"

"There was quite a lot of bootlegging [in Southwest during Prohibition]. I remember the beer we used to get. A fellow was a fireman, and his wife, Miss Anna sold beer... on 6th Street.

"There was a lumberyard right where [Jefferson Jr.] School is.

"We [The United States Army Band] played many, many parades from the Capitol, down Pennsylvania Avenue and sometimes down Constitution Avenue. It was a busy streetcar place. They had wooden platforms in the middle for the streetcars. When they had a big parade, the inaugural or something special, they would take up those platforms and it was full of rats.

"Just where the Smithsonian is was a big country market... and all along Constitution and way west they had temporary buildings—the Department of the Navy." ■

Police Awards Banquet Oct. 13

The annual awards banquet by the First District Metropolitan Police will be held Friday October 13 at Bolling Air Force Base Officers' Club. Social hour is at 6:30 pm; Buffet dinner at 7:30 pm.

Tickets for \$30 must be purchased by October 9th. Contact Capt. Dreher 727-4609; Lt. Weedon 727-1415; Lt. Kishter 727-9353 or Skip Coburn of the Citizens Advisory Council 483-1925.

Will Hill, chair of the CAC, hopes some residents will buy extra \$30 tickets, or even a table of ten for \$300, and donate them back so that officers receiving awards will not have to pay admission. ■

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